

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS**



**TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015**

DEDICATION

Lyn Keating

Lyn Keating retired in September 2015, after 25 years of public service to Westhampton as Library Director. As the director of a small town library, Lyn had to wear many different hats on any given day, from administrator to volunteer coordinator to reference librarian to IT troubleshooter to readers' advisory consultant. She was instrumental in every step that led to a new library building in 2010: the long range planning and planning grant application, the construction grant process, the work of the building committee. She prepared our library for its new space by spearheading the effort to barcode its entire collection and to become a fully participating member of Central/Western Mass Resource Sharing, which brought us online access to a wealth of resources.

But Lyn Keating's greatest legacy to the town was making the library both a welcoming and interesting place for newcomers, long-term residents and visitors. Lyn developed a remarkable collection of nonfiction and fiction books and audiobooks, DVDs and magazines, responsive to the needs and interests of our community. She was helpful and adept at connecting people with information and resources. Beyond this, Lyn connected with patrons of all ages on a personal level- she remembered their names, occupations, schools, where they lived, what they liked. Over time, she celebrated their achievements and sympathized with their losses. Under Lyn's direction, the public library became a vibrant community space.

Upon Lyn's retirement, the Friends of Westhampton Public Library established the Lyn Keating Programming Fund, in appreciation of her 25 years as Library Director.

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

The year began with Arthur Pichette as Chair of the Selectboard, James Huston as Clerk and Philip Dowling. There was no change after the Annual Town Election.

Lynn Keating retired after 25 years as Library Director and Laura Blakesley retired after 20 years as Tax Collector. We thank them both for their many years of service to the Town.

During the year, the Board appointed Joseph Boudreau as Town Accountant, Anne Marie Knox as Tax Collector and Patricia Cotton as Treasurer. In all three cases, their work and experience in other positions was well known to local officials and they came to us as highly recommended administrators.

After getting the Town through the difficult 2014/2015 winter with the old Ford 4X4, the Highway Department was pleased to receive the new Western Star 4X4 in the Fall of 2015, shown on the cover. This is sure to serve the Town well for many years to come. We commend the Highway Department for their work throughout the difficult winter.

In February we signed the Hampshire County Emergency Communication Systems Agreement and in May we appointed Christopher Norris as Hampshire Regional Emergency Response Coordinator. The communications agreement and the Emergency Planning Committee are separate but related and important in helping to keep the Town ready and able to coordinate regional emergency responses when necessary. We thank Chris for his efforts to bring us into the 21st century in this area.

In March the Board voted to seek funding at Annual Town Meeting for

information technology services in the amount of \$7,600. This funding request was supported by the Finance Committee and was subsequently approved at Annual Town Meeting. Northeast IT Systems was contracted to provide the service and we have been pleased with progress in this area to date. A Website Committee was chosen to oversee the initial design and development of a new town website. It is anticipated that this new coordinated website will be a great aid for townspeople to utilize in order to follow and obtain information on the activities and schedules of Town Boards and Departments.

At Annual Town Meeting and, subsequently, at a Special Town Meeting, the Town approved match funds allowing the Town to purchase a new Vacuum Tanker Truck. This vehicle will allow the Fire Department to reach many previously inaccessible areas of town and will serve the community for many years, according to Chief Norris. The specifications for the tanker were developed by Chief Norris with input from many others. The low bid was accepted by the Selectboard and the truck is expected to be delivered in the Fall of 2016.

A Public Safety Complex Committee was appointed to review options for improving, upgrading and potentially re-purposing the current fire house and police department office building, as well as looking at options for a new building. It is anticipated that this committee will meet in the near future to organize and look at options for analyzing the feasibility of these various options.

We thank all the officials and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to make Westhampton a wonderful place to call our home.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Pichette, Chair
James Huston, Clerk
Philip Dowling

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Vital records are kept by the Town Clerk. The State recommends not printing the names of births due to privacy regulations.

Births 12

Westhampton welcomed 6 girls and 6 boys

Marriages 3

04/17/2015	Todd Ernest Carrier	to	Valerie Sue Casterline
07/05/2015	Helen Claire Weagle	to	Catherine Marie Murray
10/31/2015	Blake C.C. Johnson	to	Kiara Maria Vigil

Deaths 11

01/09/2015	Irene J. Montague	05/17/2015	Shirley St. John
03/25/2015	John P. Garelli	05/22/2015	Walter Challet
04/20/2015	Garry Anderson	08/27/2015	Marion W. Montague.
05/01/2015	John A. Sullivan, Jr.	10/02/2015	Elaine D. Koske
05/03/2015	Sean E. Hornby-Finch	11/08/2015	John D. Dyer
		12/13/2015	Christine A. Hurd

DOG LICENSES FOR 2014

#SOLD

Males	19	\$190.00
Females	8	\$ 80.00
Spayed F	148	\$740.00
Neutered M	130	\$650.00
Total Dog Licenses		\$1,660.00
Kennels 4 dogs or less	1	\$ 18.00
Kennels 10 dogs or less	2	\$ 70.00
Kennels 10 dogs plus	2	\$130.00
Total Kennel Licenses	7	\$218.00

Dog Licenses are available by March each year. All dogs six months or older must be licensed by June 30th and a current rabies certificate is required. Per State Law, any person whose dog is not licensed by the June deadline is subject to fines and penalties. License information is included in the annual census.

Town Clerk Fees Collected

Burial Permits	6	\$ 120.00
Death Certificates	48	\$ 240.00
Birth Certificates	22	\$ 110.00
Marriage Certificates	13	\$ 65.00
Marriage License	3	\$ 60.00
Business Certificate	7	\$140.00
Zoning/Planning	3	\$429.00
Pole Set	2	\$ 20.00
Total		\$ 1,184.00

Population from local census	1725
Total Registered Voters	1230
Democrats	251
Republicans	127
Green-Rainbow Party	3
United Independent Party	4
Unenrolled	843
Designation	2

At the Annual Town Meeting held May 9, 2015 and continued June 22, 2015, it was voted to amend the Town Bylaw 3-3-1 and 4-5-2 deleting the Board of Health from an elected position and making the Board of Health an appointed position. Town Bylaw 3-1-1 increased the School

Committee from a three person committee to a five person committee. Town Bylaw 3-1-1 delete the elected position of a three member Recreation Committee and under Section 3-2-1 delete an elected Recreation Committee. The changes to Bylaw's were submitted and approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General on August 2, 215.

The Town Clerk holds office hours Monday night from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Friday mornings from 8:00 AM to noon. If you cannot make it during these hours please call 413-203-3080 and I will be glad to meet you at another time. Services included providing copies or birth, death and marriage certificates; issuing marriage licenses, dog licenses, business licenses and special permit/variance applications; voter registration; and information needed for all elections. I am looking for anyone available to work elections, so if you are interested, please let me know. All meetings and agendas are posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Clerk's office and in the mailbox in front of Town Hall or if you have internet access the Town website www.westhampton-ma.com

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton, Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2014	1,475,359.79
Receipts	6,883,368.88
Disbursements	6,690,344.74
Balance June 30, 2015	1,398,383.93
Easthampton Library	17,907.40
Easthampton Savings Collector	303,237.18
Easthampton Savings Sweep	36,412.81
Easthampton Savings Deputy Collector	24,493.56
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	1,675.79
Easthampton Payroll	3,574.51
MMDT General	62,407.63
MMDT Cultural Council	4,215.39
MMDT Septic Grant	79,459.11
Peoples Collector	24,356.30
Peoples MM	68,430.22
Peoples Septic	5,235.70
Unibank	82,674.73
Unibank Online Collections	34,036.85
Unibank Fire Online Collections	1,450.73
Germain Trust	5,260.28
Clapp Trust	94,573.08
OBEP Trust	8,078.51
MMDT Charity	7,153.00
MMDT Veterans Trust	2,219.99
MMDT Stabilization Fund	25,909.58
Balance June 30, 2015	1,398,383.93
Interest Earned	3,964.97

Tax Title Account:

Name		Balance due as of 6/30/2015
Kellogg, Loretta	225 Northwest Rd	12,085.05
Scully, James	50 Pine Island	16,046.14 pd 12/18/2015
Levesque (Moore), Abbie	North Rd	1,847.83
Young, Mark	41 Loudville Rd	34,495.62
Young, Mark	Loudville Rd	1,275.46
Freitag, Edward	32 Northwest Rd	16,046.14
Zevarra Realty	Northwest Rd	4,607.50
Total		87,082.06

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton, Treasurer

Town of Westhampton
Combined Balance Sheet - All Funds and Account Groups
June 30, 2015

	<u>Governmental Funds</u>				<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>	<u>Account Group</u>	<u>Totals</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>		<u>Trust and Agency</u>	<u>General Long-Term Debt</u>	
Cash	\$ 642,759	\$ 323,493	\$ 271,008	\$ 161,124	\$ -	\$ -	1,398,384
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taxes Receivable:							
Real property	194,871						194,871
Personal property	12,185						12,185
Tax liens	86,703						86,703
	293,759	-	-	-	-	-	293,759
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	55,937	-	-	-	-	-	55,937
	237,822	-	-	-	-	-	237,822
Other Receivables:							
Motor vehicle and other excise	55,195						55,195
Commonwealth of Massachusetts- Highway		485,532					485,532
	55,195	485,532	-	-	-	-	540,728
Amounts to be Provided for Retirement of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-	950,590	950,590
Total Assets	\$ 935,777	\$ 809,025	\$ 271,008	\$ 161,124	\$ 950,590	\$ -	3,127,524

**Town of Westhampton
Combined Balance Sheet - All Funds and Account Groups
June 30, 2015**

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds	Account Group
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt
					Totals
Liabilities:					
Accrued Payroll	\$ 148,193	\$ 31,127			\$ 179,320
Deferred revenue -Property	151,119				151,119
Deferred revenue - Tax Liens	86,703				86,703
Deferred revenue - MVE	55,195				55,195
Deferred revenue - Highway		485,532			485,532
Long-term debt				950,590	950,590
Total Liabilities	441,211	516,660	-	-	1,908,460
Fund Balances:					
Reserved:					
Overlay Surplus	30,659				30,659
Encumbrances	36,649				36,649
Expenditures	114,500				114,500
Unreserved:					
Designated		292,366	226,620	161,124	680,110
Undesignated	312,758		44,388		357,146
Total Fund Balances	494,566	292,366	271,008	161,124	1,219,064
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 935,777	\$ 809,026	\$ 271,008	\$ 161,124	\$ 950,590
					\$ 3,127,524

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

RECEIPTS

TAXES

Property	3,898,214.28	
In Lieu of Taxes	18,232.72	
Tax liens	46,947.09	
Motor Vehicle Excise	215,592.30	
Rollback Taxes	7,496.54	
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	22,835.96	4,209,318.89

COMM MASS

Local Aid/Lottery	128,943.00	
Exemptions	2,008.00	
PILOT	1,010.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	454,345.00	
Extended Polling Hours	357.00	
Charter School Reimbursement	21,778.00	
State Aid to Libraries	2,848.00	
Veterans Reimbursements	6,848.00	
Medicaid	5,734.04	623,871.04

GRANTS AND GIFTS

Dog Refund	1,271.81	
COA – Federal	2,000.00	
COA – State	3,998.26	
Cultural Council	4,306.04	
Library Gifts	9,078.03	
Library Building Gift	53.65	

Louds Bridge Grant	73,469.58	
Wetlands Conservation	285.00	94,462.37
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	447.00	
Board of Assessors	156.92	
Plumbing Fees	965.00	
Electrical Fees	2,815.00	
Building Permits	13,170.25	
Planning Board	120.00	
Library	384.35	
Tax Collector Fees	4,420.00	
Other Departmental	1,786.20	
Mark & Clear	1,200.00	
Town Clerk Fees	2,561.50	
Miscellaneous/refunds	8,174.87	36,201.09
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Fire Fighter's Safety Grants	115,597.57	115,597.57
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	940.00	
Gun Permits	1,187.50	2,127.50
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Licenses & Permits	6,235.00	
Septic Design	200.00	
Perc Tests	2,100.00	
Title V	2,025.00	10,560.00
REVOLVING FUNDS		
Fire Dept. Revolving Fund	2,465.00	

Septic Repayment	161.30	
Cemetery Revolving Fund	6,482.80	9,109.10

SCHOOL FUNDS

Choice reimbursement	137,182.00	
Extra Relief Circuit Breaker	10,197.00	
Reimburse Summer School	6,245.36	
School Library Gift	1,000.00	
School Gift/Refunds	1,860.86	
GAPS/REAPS Grant	19,530.00	
Kindergarten Grant	12,828.00	
Preschool	50,723.00	
Building Use	1,350.00	
School Lunch	17,843.52	258,759.74

HIGHWAY

Chapter 90	169,806.83	
Highway Misc	703.39	
Transfer Station Fees	46,898.25	217,408.47

TRUST

Clapp Trust	283.26	
St Germain Memorial Trust	17.81	
OPEB Trust	2,737.16	3,038.23

INTEREST

On General Fund	3,361.90	
On Charity Funds	10.21	
On Cemetery Funds	7.25	
On Veterans Trust	3.66	
On Stabilization	51.76	3,434.78

AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	40.50	
Deputy Collector Fees	3,168.00	
Meals Tax	9.25	
Gun Permits	3,437.50	
Police Outside Detail	3,855.00	
Payroll Deductions	586,959.84	597,470.09
MSBA-School Roof	196,420.00	196,420.00
Long Term Borrow-School Roof	284,580.00	
Long Term Borrow Hgwy Truck	221,010.00	505,590.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		6,883,368.87

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS		
Property Tax	11,709.67	
Motor Vehicle Excise	3,845.79	15,555.46

AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	1,091.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	3,168.00	
Meals Tax	9.05	
Gun Permits	3,550.00	
Police Detail	3,055.00	
Payroll Deductions	594,891.71	605,764.76

SCHOOL REVOLVING FUND & GRANTS

Foundation Reserve	3,746.25	
REAPS grant	16,918.49	
Kindergarten Enhancement	9,000.00	
Extra Relief Circuit Breaker	10,197.00	
Eton City Arts Grant	556.83	
Preschool	68,393.99	
School Choice	95,044.70	
School Lunch	18,797.00	
School Library Gift	1,000.00	223,654.26

SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Cemetery Revolving	6,921.89	
Clapp Fund	2,126.85	
Cultural Council	4,177.28	
Council on Aging Federal	1,005.89	
Council on Aging State	4,000.41	
Fire Dept. Revolving	3093.02	
Fire Fighter's Safety Grants	115,415.25	
MEMA EMPG Grant	4,435.00	
Chapter 90 Highway Funds	158,919.45	
Library Gifts	3,684.69	
Library Building Gift	648.88	
State Aid to Library	2,138.36	
Safe Grant 2012	217.50	
Safe Grant 2013	956.71	
Safe Grant 2014	60.00	
Highway Bond Refunding	0	307,801.18

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School Roof	336,818.28	336,818.28
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TOTAL Non-Appropriation	2,361,569.48	
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APPROPRIATION

EXPENDITURES

Budgeted

Spent

General Government

Moderator	450.00	0.00
Selectboard Salary	4,100.00	4,100.00
Selectboard Expense	4,100.00	3,965.59
Selectboard Encumbrance	236.20	236.20
Selectboard IT Audit	1,000.00	0.00
Administrative Assistant	30,000.00	30,000.00
Town Accountant Salary	11,400.00	10,986.00
Town Accountant Expense	3,865.00	3,564.57
Auditor Salary	14,500.00	13,000.00
Independent Audit (\$13,500 CF)	14,349.00	14,349.00
Treasurer Expense	6,400.00	6,396.05
Treasurer Encumbrance	55.50	30.50
Assessor Salary	7,825.00	7,825.00
Assessor Expense	8,772.00	7,154.66
Assessor Assistant	13,838.00	13,702.52
Tax Collector Salary	14,349.00	14,349.00
Tax Collector Expense	12,456.00	12,346.50
Tax Taking Expense	6,960.00	0.00
Town Clerk Salary	12,180.00	12,180.00
Town Clerk Expense	4,357.00	4,033.84
Clerk Board of Registrars	100.00	100.00

Counsel Fees	32,312.40	27,226.91
Conservation Commission	202.00	202.00
Planning Board	200.00	37.40
Zoning Board of Appeals	600.00	186.99
Town Offices	24,450.00	22,485.88
		208,458.61

Protection of Persons & Property

Police Chief	26,908.00	26,908.00
Police Department	48,199.00	47,243.40
Fire Chief	10,769.00	10,769.00
Fire Department	26,100.00	25,929.69
SCBA Grant Match	20,653.19	6,074.75
Fire Air Foam System	35,000.00	34,610.28
Public Safety Complex	15,525.00	15,514.61
Emergency Mngmt Director	416.00	416.00
Emergency Medical Services	8,550.00	8,397.78
Inspector Compensation	16,398.00	12,797.82
Inspection Expense	1,250.00	882.39
Tree Warden	600.00	600.00
Tree Warden Expense	2,000.00	1,832.82
Animal Control Officer Salary	2,400.00	2,400.00
Animal Control Officer Expense	300.00	100.00
		194,476.54

Education

School Committee	1,380.00	1,380.00
Elementary School	1,483,480.00	1,449,223.68
Elementary School Enc	57,827.16	57,827.16
Hampshire Regional	1,154,541.00	1,154,541.00
Hampshire Regional Debt	78,688.00	78,688.00

School Choice Assessment	21,492.00	38,649.00
Charter School Assessment	58,803.00	72,641.00
Vocational Tuition	230,301.00	230,301.00
Vocational Transportation	55,076.00	55,076.40
		3,138,327.24

Public Works

Highway Administration	4,740.00	3,789.44
Highway Salaries	204,206.00	201,144.06
Highway Materials	87,125.00	84,785.15
Snow Removal	135,795.81	135,795.81
Road Machinery	40,684.0	40,292.78
Road Machinery Fuel	43,050.00	39,029.72
Road Machinery Buildings	29,159.00	25,872.70
Transfer Station	52,647.60	50,041.58
Cemetery Salary	5,892.00	5,892.00
		586,643.24

Human Services

Board of Health Salary	300.00	0.00
Board of Health Expenses	500.00	0.00
Hilltown Resource Mgmt. Coop	4,269.00	4,268.10
Foothills Health District	14,544.00	14,543.59
Council on Aging	2,925.00	2,836.20
COA Coordinator	1,117.00	1,083.96
Veterans Agent	1,615.00	1,615.00
Veterans Expenses	22,344.0	15,425.38
		39,772.23

Culture & Recreation

Library	87,641.00	84,340.35
Library Encumbrance	24.98	24.98
Historical Commission	1,200.00	1,112.90

Memorial Day	200.00	0.00
Cultural Council	75.00	0.00
		85,478.23

Debt

Highway Bldg./ Firetruck	149,000.00	149,000.00
Interest Long Term Debt	6,115.00	5,916.00
		154,916.00

Intergovernmental

Hamp Council of Governments	761.00	760.40
State Assessments: Air Pollution	496.00	496.00
RMV Surcharge	640.00	640.00
Regional Transit	1,273.00	1,273.00
STRAP	12,000.00	12,000.00
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm.	242.00	241.05
		15,410.45

Unclassified

Hampshire County Retirement	157,240.00	154,315.00
Unemployment	18,000.00	0.00
Group Health Insurance	345,000.00	313,213.56
Medicare	26,500.00	24,916.34
Medicare Encumbrance	437.58	437.58
Insurance & Bonds	80,850.00	76,812.31
		569,694.79

Total Appropriation	5,124,322.42	4,993,177.33
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Grand Total Expenditures		6,482,771.27
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Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Boudreau, Town Accountant

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
AS OF JUNE 30, 2015

	Real Estate Balances	Personal Property Balances	Motor Vehicle Balances
	as of June 30, 2015	as of June 30, 2015	as of June 30, 2015
2015	\$94621.98	\$3341.12	\$30,095.98
2014	\$44,526.77	\$705.73	\$2,060.34
2013	\$16,634.21	\$818.58	\$2,804.82
2012	\$9,963.46	\$0.03	\$702.22
2011	\$483.96	\$5.00	\$898.66
2010	\$1,471.42	(9.10)	\$611.67
Prior Yrs.	\$28,355.68	\$4,861.36	\$37,173.69
TOTAL	\$196,057.48	\$9,722.72	\$74,347.38

GRAND TOTAL: \$280,127.58

All Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows: 1st quarter - August 1; 2nd quarter - November 1; 3rd quarter - February 1; 4th quarter - May 1. Bills are mailed quarterly, one month before due date.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Knox, Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2015, the Board of Assessors recorded 71 property transfers. Also, the Board approved a total of 24 personal exemptions, 2 real estate abatements, 1 account deemed uncollectable and 85 motor vehicle excise abatements.

Fiscal year 2016 was a full recertification year for the Town of Westhampton. The State of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services is involved in this process. They analyzed and then certified the Town's values in December 2015.

Westhampton's assessed values for Fiscal Year 2016 are

Real Estate - \$217,991,464
Personal Property - \$5,245,043
Exempt - \$27,980,700

The tax rate was certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in December 2015 for fiscal year 2016 at \$18.90 per \$1000 of value.

Assessor business can be transacted Monday & Wednesday mornings from 9-12 and the Board of Assessors meets Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

We can be reached at 413-203-3082 or
westhamptonassessors@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Morrey, Chair
Dolores Thornhill
Sarah Challet

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2015 members of the Finance Committee and their respective terms were:

Mary Cleary	2015
Ellice Gonzalez Brandow	2015
Margaret Parsons	2015
Edward Zawacki	2015
Jacqueline Brodeur	2016
Aniko Giordano	2016
Celeste Whiting	2016
Tom Cleary	2017
Maryanne Duggan	2017
Joe Pipczynski	2017

At the June 2015 election Chevey Seney was elected to serve until 2018. Mary Cleary, Ellice Gonzalez Brandow and Edward Zawacki were each re-elected for three years. We thank Margaret Parsons for her many years of devoted service to the Finance Committee. The experience and insight she shared with the Committee were invaluable.

Finance Committee Activities

The Finance Committee's duties are to prepare the Town's annual budget and serve as the Town's fiscal advisory body. This year the Committee decided that it would also review the budget process and address basic issues such as continual underfunding of capital projects. Committee members determined what has worked well in past budget cycles and what needed improvement. The results included the creation of a new budget request format so there is now consistency in how budgets are submitted to the Committee, a line by line review of the budget to ascertain if any changes need to be made to specific line items, a request from Departments early in the budgeting cycle to determine if any unusual expenses will impact the upcoming budget,

and the establishment of earlier budget deadlines so the entire budget process can be completed in a more timely and thorough manner. All of this was done with one goal in mind: make the budget process proactive rather than reactive to ensure the continued and future fiscal health of the Town.

Annual Town Meeting is the only time the Town gathers to discuss its financial state and the sole purpose is to review and pass a budget. At Annual Town Meeting, there is often confusion over how the budget process works and there is little time for clear explanations and discussion. Therefore, the Finance Committee offered three Budget Workshops in Fall, 2015. Two discussed preparing and understanding budgets and were presented by Joe Boudreau, Town Accountant. The third workshop described how to fund Capital Projects and was given by John Trickey, Pelham's Finance Committee Chair.

FY16 Budget Process

We would like to thank the Town Departments and Committees for understanding the fiscal constraints that exist and submitting budgets reflecting those limits. We would also like to thank Joe Boudreau, Town Accountant, for attending many of our meetings, educating us and gently guiding us to wise decisions.

Final FY16 budget requests exceeded our revenues by \$340,731. While in years past we have started out with larger deficits, this year we had very little we could cut since so many expenses were mandated. We approached the deficit in several ways. First, after conferring with other Town officials, the revenue estimates for both new growth and estimated receipts were increased. Second, we used funding sources that are kept for only unmet expenses. The Overlay Surplus Fund of \$30,659 which had accumulated over several years and is supervised by the Assessors was used. That fund is now depleted. Also \$114,500 from Free Cash was added to the revenue line, leaving only \$75,000 for

emergencies. Third, all budget requests were reviewed line by line and wherever possible budgets were cut for a total of approximately \$127,000. Finally, a \$39,667 override was recommended to help balance the budget. While the budget still was not completely balanced at Annual Town Meeting, it was assumed that as in years past, adjustments could be made to satisfy the requirement that the budget would be close to being balanced and submitted to the State by July 1. The budget was approved as presented and the Override was passed at the annual June election.

However, when the Town received the final version of the MA State budget in mid-July, the state reimbursements and assessments to the Town had changed significantly from earlier versions. Amounts for Charter School Reimbursement had decreased while School Choice Assessments had increased. This final version had a negative effect of \$17,775 on the Town's budget. Those increased costs coupled with the outstanding negative balance meant the Town was in a total deficit of over \$30,000. This was not resolved until the Special Town Meeting held in October 2015 when the sum of \$30,000 formerly allocated to the Tanker Truck was rescinded and returned to the general funds since the Tanker Truck cost was voted to be raised through borrowing. The FY16 budget was balanced, submitted to the State and the tax rate was set in early December.

For FY16 New Growth was certified at \$43,000 and Free Cash was certified at \$211,839.

Looking ahead to FY17, the fiscal picture continues to look bleak. All possible sources of revenue were used for FY16, the Town has numerous capital projects that are being paid off and impact the annual budget, and mandated expenses continue to rise.

Budget Transfers

In FY15 Finance Committee voted the following transfers from the Reserve Fund:

\$2112	Veteran's Expense
2	Conservation Commission Expense
1700	Fire Department
1400	Safety Complex Building
1000	Treasurer's Expense

In FY15 transfers were also approved of \$185 from the Board of Health to the Health Agent; and \$50,367 from available funds to the Snow Removal Deficit.

In FY16 Finance Committee voted the following transfers from the Reserve Fund:

\$ 610	Highway Truck
\$ 4250	Select Board Expense

In FY16 additional transfers were also approved of \$2,312.40 from the Transfer Station to Counsel Fees; \$5,000 from the Transfer Station to the Highway Truck.

In early 2015 Finance Committee recommended at a Special Town Meeting that \$15,000 be transferred from available funds to Counsel Fees and \$11,172 be transferred from available funds to Veterans Expense. In Fall 2015, Finance Committee recommended the following at a Special Town Meeting: 1) that a sum of money be borrowed to purchase a new tanker truck and \$315,000 was approved for this purchase; 2) that the \$30,000 appropriated for the tanker truck at Annual Town Meeting be rescinded and returned to general funds; 3) that \$3,248 be transferred from the Hampshire County Retirement Fund to the Reserve Fund and that \$250 be transferred from the Select Board Expense Account to the Reserve Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellice Gonzalez, Chair

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2014 – 2015 started out with very few storms until February, when it started snowing and continued steadily into March. Boston had record breaking snowfall amounts. Western Massachusetts had near record amounts, but because we did not have any one major snow storm, we were not eligible for “disaster relief” through MEMA, as the eastern counties were. A total of \$135,795.81 was spent on snow removal.

In the spring, all paved roads and parking lots were swept and, during the summer, all catch basins were checked and cleaned as needed.

WRRRP (Pothole money)

Again this year, the state awarded a contract to the town in the amount of \$28,337.00 under the Winter Rapid Road Recovery Program (WRRRP.) The state often funds this program after a hard winter to help repair our roads. This year we used this, and \$10535.46 in Chapter 90 money, to shim and overlay a 2900 foot section of Reservoir Road.

Beavers

This year beavers moved into a new site on Southampton Road trying to dam a culvert going under the road. We repeatedly removed their dam and it appears they have moved on for now.

Chapter 90 Projects

Clapp Road, Shaw Road and 2 miles of Northwest Road, for a total of 2.5 miles, were chip sealed. An 1100 foot section of Kings Highway that was previously gravel was reconstructed. Existing culverts were replaced, millings and gravel were added, and then 2 ½ inches of hot mix binder coarse were put down.

Two sections of North Road totaling just over one mile were reclaimed and paved with a hot mix binder coarse. A new drainage system was added, along with some minor realignment, at the intersection of Easthampton Road and Kings Highway.

Other Projects

North Road Bridge over Robert Meadows Brook

The contractor, David G. Roach & Sons, Inc., returned in April to complete the remaining work on the bridge by Walter Brown's. At the same time, the Highway Department reconstructed the intersection of North Road and Chesterfield Road, doing away with the "Y" and making the two roads meet at 90°. This type of intersection is easier to maintain and much safer, with better sight distance, and is more in line with Mass. D.O.T. Standard Highway Design. This worked out well as both the town and the bridge contractor were under separate contracts with the same paving company at that time.

Northwest Road Culvert Relining

This project was first mentioned two years ago in my annual report. \$350,000 has been earmarked for this project in the state transportation budget. Senator Downing, Representative Kocot, the Selectboard, Administrative Assistant and I continue to lobby to have the funds released. In early 2016, we had a meeting scheduled with the Secretary of Transportation in Boston to discuss the importance of this project. Unfortunately, that meeting was postponed, and, as of this writing, is being rescheduled. Representative Kocot assures me that the funds will be released soon.

New Truck

The new truck finally arrived in October, a little more than one year after it was ordered. So far it is working well and seems to be a good match for the hilly back roads that it was designed for.

All in all, it was a very busy year for the Highway Department with many projects completed, along with the regular maintenance that we do on the roads and equipment.

Again, I thank Bill, Jerry and Scott for their dedication to the Department. Without them, my job would be much more difficult. Also, thanks to Don Fox for his great work keeping things in order at the Transfer Station.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley,
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department had another busy year in 2015 providing emergency services to the community. The Department responded to two-hundred and fourteen calls for service this year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, inspections and many more.

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	24	11.21%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	111	51.87%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	15	7.01%
Service Call	35	16.36%
Good Intent Call	9	4.21%
False Alarm & False Call	19	8.88%
Special Incident Type	1	0.47%
TOTAL	214	100.00%

Department's fleet of apparatus consists of a 2004 Engine, a 1986 Engine, a 1990 garbage truck cab and chassis with a milk truck body converted into a Water Tanker, a 2002 Brush Truck, a 2009 Rescue Truck, a 2009 Mobile Air trailer with a light tower and generator, and a 1996 ambulance. All vehicles are checked by Department personnel on a weekly basis to ensure a state of operational readiness and reliability. In addition, the Town's Highway Department has been a tremendous asset to the Fire Department, completing all routine maintenance, fluid changes, and upkeep of the vehicles. The vehicle maintenance program, as established, helps to prolong the expected life-span of the vehicles and improve the safety during emergency responses. Again this year, we had both Engines professionally pump-tested to ensure adequate pump performance as determined by the manufactures. These testing procedures are also reflected in the Department's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating and meet the requirements set by National Standards pertaining to Fire Apparatus. We did budget additional money this year to have the pump on our Engine 2 rebuilt and serviced to prolong the overall life of the entire vehicle and that work has since been completed.

The Department also had all of the fire hose pressure tested to ensure adequate operational effectiveness. National Standards recommend that this is done once a year, and in addition, it is reflected in the ISO ratings that this testing procedure be done to minimize the insurance rates in Town. More important, to ensure the safety of all members utilizing fire hose during operational procedures, it is our responsibility that they are provided with equipment that is safe and functioning to the highest standards. The testing revealed that the Department did have fire hose in service that did not pass the required pressure rating. These were removed from service and replaced with some of the spare hose that was also tested and passed the requirements. These testing requirements demonstrated that this was a project that was needed and should be continued each year to help ensure that the integrity and

operational capacity of the equipment is maintained. We also had all of our ground ladders tested to the National Standards, ensuring they could meet the performance requirements during emergency operations. All of these projects are critical to properly maintaining all of the equipment and ensuring the highest degree of safety for our personnel utilizing these resources.



1996
Westhampton
Ambulance

On April 1, 2015, the Westhampton Fire Department began a new chapter in its history by starting up a basic life support (BLS) transport ambulance service. This was the first time in the Town history that the Department began transporting patients. This was a great partnership between the Town which funded a small share of the startup costs and the Westhampton Firefighters Association purchasing the ambulance from the Easthampton Fire Department for \$3,000 and then selling it to the Town for \$1. The new system is now structured so a private ambulance service, Pioneer Valley Ambulance, provides transportation between the hours of midnight and 4PM, and the Westhampton Fire Department provides transportation between the hours of 4PM and midnight. These times allow for the volunteers to get home from work, school, etc. and provide coverage as needed when calls come in. All EMT's will continue to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but will respond in their personal vehicles during those off hours.

One of the greatest challenges faced by volunteer departments across the country is the recruitment and retention of Department members. Greater demands on training, increasing call volumes and the balance of a full time job and family all require a delicate balance that can minimize the number of people interested in becoming a member. The Town of Westhampton has been very fortunate over the years, given the difficulties seen by other departments, to maintain this type of department and the high level of performance and services provided by these individuals. The Department currently has thirty-five volunteer members and is always seeking new members to help serve the community. These volunteers are vital to keeping the overall cost for services down while at the same time performing a critical service needed in the community.

Members of the Department are continuing to work with the Elementary School and their staff to deliver public education and fire safety lessons to the Students. This education is done in the form of classroom presentations and demonstrations as well as public education programs at Town events such as the Fall Festival. Our Department continues to be a member of the Hampshire County Fire Defense Association providing us access to a regional public education trailer to assist in the delivery of the fire safety lessons. This continues to be an extremely valuable program and we look forward to our continued collaboration with the school Administration for this purpose.

The Department continues to rely heavily on its website to help with the communications throughout the community. We have transitioned all of our burning permits and inspections to this online forum to make it more convenient for anyone to request or schedule these and get immediate feedback. For a Department that is an all-volunteer, we have already seen a dramatic improvement in communication both externally and internally with our members. We hope to continually

make improvements such as this in the future to better service all the residents as efficiently as possible.

Last year we worked with the Town Treasurer and Unibank to provide online payments and scheduling for people needing a home smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspection. This year, we added all oil burner inspections and propane inspections to the list enabling all of these companies to log in online and scheduled the inspection and provide payment directly to the Town. This enables all funds to be directly sent on a secure wireless network to the Town's bank account and then generates an email notifying the Department about the need for an inspection.

To access the Department website, please visit www.westhamptonfire.org and you can also visit us on our Facebook page under the Westhampton Fire Department page.

The Department continued providing services for installation of child safety restraint systems. Motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of injury and death for children under the age of 12. Based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), although motor vehicle deaths among children age 12 and under has decreased by 43% in the past decade, still more than 9,000 children age 12 and under have died in crashes in the past decade. The Department has one technician trained to properly install these seats to help continually reduce the number of children becoming injured. Knowing how to use car seats, booster seats, and seat belts along with wearing these no matter how short the trip, will lead to a safer environment for our children. To sign up for this service, simply click on our website and choose a date.

The Department was successful this year in obtaining an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$238,000 for the purchase of a new

Tanker Truck. A special Town meeting in September provided an addition \$77,000 for this purchase for an overall amount of \$315,000. These funds will allow the Department to purchase a new Tanker and remove from service a twenty-six year old vehicle that was being utilized for purposes it was not designed. The cab and chassis of this vehicle was originally used as a garbage truck and the body was used as a milk truck. The new Tanker will have greater versatility and capabilities and more importantly provide a safe and reliable vehicle for all of our Firefighters. This new vehicle should be delivered around July 2016.

The Department received a second Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$16,200 for the purchase of new turnout gear for some of our new members. Recently, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has changed their standards for protective clothing for Firefighters. It is now the accepted consensus standard in the fire service that all protective clothing that is being used for fire suppression operations, be manufactured within the last ten years. This grant will help outfit eight of our newer members, and provide us the ability to fund additional protective clothing out of our operational budget and prolong the need to ask the Town for a capital expense on these items. We are very excited about this grant and expect delivery of the new gear around May 2016.

The Town continues to have a mass notification system to alert all Town residents for any emergent needs. This system is called CodeRED and provides the Town the ability to call all landlines, or any other cell phone numbers, text message, or email individuals on the alert. The intent of this type of system is to improve communication prior to a large scale disaster, or weather related event to provide guidance and direction to the community on things such as expectations of power being restored, opening of warming shelters, and items that individuals are expected to have on their own. We have done two test

calls with this system with positive feedback from the system and the community as a whole. Anyone can sign up for this system by going to the Department website at www.westhamptonfire.org and click on the CodeRED icon on our homepage.

This past July, Bob Miller stepped down as the Department EMS Coordinator after overseeing this position since its inception. Bob has been instrumental in numerous advances in emergency medical services within the Town and assisting with the transition to the Town and Department having their own transporting ambulance. Bob continues to respond as a member of the Department on all EMS calls and plays a significant role in all responses and trainings.

The Department would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Bob Miller for all of the sacrifices he has made to get the Westhampton EMS service to where it is today.

New members brought on this year were Joe Bykowski. Joe and his family live on Hathaway Road. Joe has a background in the fire service as he was a call Firefighter in the Town of Foxboro prior to moving to Westhampton. We welcome Joe and his family as he transitions to our Department and begins his training for both fire and emergency medical services calls.

There are a number of capital projects that the Fire Department is going to need input and support on from the community in the immediate future. The largest of these is a need for a new Public Safety Complex to meet the growing demands of the community. The current facility is reaching sixty years old and no longer is able to accommodate the demands placed on the public safety services (Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management). In addition, one of the Engines is twenty-eight years old and has reached its life expectancy. However, no new Engine available will fit in the current facility given the current size

and parameters. The Tanker vehicle is also old and being utilized for operations that it was not designed.

All of these items have been forwarded to the Town Capital Improvements Committee with emphasis placed on a new building. We will continue to explore all available funding options to minimize the financial impact on the community, but the conversation needs to continue in order to plan and prepare for vehicles and equipment for the next ten to twenty-five years and a facility that will continue to meet the service demands for the next fifty plus years.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the personnel at the Department for their continued support and dedication to the Town and the Department. It continues to be an absolute pleasure and honor to work for all of them and be part of an organization that cares so much about their community. The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residents swimming pools and the water tanks at the Town Cemetery, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and decrease response times. The Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few healthy and vigorous volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community. Thank you and have a safe and healthy year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher W. Norris, Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Police Department is to provide professional, community oriented services to the residents of Westhampton. Over the past year, our officers proactively worked to keep the homes and streets of the town safe and secure. The department continues to work with the fire and highway departments to accomplish the overall task of providing public safety services to members of this community.

A JAG Byrne Grant of approximately \$27,000 permitted the department to purchase some much need communications equipment that otherwise would not have been possible with town funds. These in-car radios and portables enable our officers to communicate with the dispatch in Northampton as well as with responding troopers from the Massachusetts State Police. Reception coverage has been improved which ultimately means improved safety for responding officers and the community.

Firearms applications are accepted on the second Wednesday of each month. The application may be downloaded off the new town website at www.westhampton-ma.com. This website also offers a variety of links and forms that may be useful.

If there are any thoughts or questions, please contact the department at 527-6154. The messages are checked at least twice per day and an officer will return your call. The above number should be used for **non-emergencies**. In case of emergency, call 911. In the event the town police officers are not available, the Massachusetts State Police will be dispatched from Northampton.

The following is a synopsis of reported trends over the past five years to include 2015:

Emergency/paged calls:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	361	271	253	308	298
To include:					
-Arrests/summons	9	6	6	3	2
-Disturbances	10	6	11	16	7
-Breaking Entry	6	4	4	5	4
-Larcenies	6	6	10	11	5
-Domestic Calls	5	7	4	4	3
-Assault	5	2	2	5	3
-Alarms/911 hang up/ misdials	94	85	41	91	71
-Suspicious Persons/Vehicles	16	13	22	7	32
-Medical/Fire Assists	18	23	21	47	71
-Accidents	26	29	24	34	28
-Officer Assistance	106	83	90	82	86
-Vandalism	6	12	9	12	9
-Non-emergency calls	600	578	648	730	620

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

D. White #671, Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER & INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

The following is a summary of actions by the Animal Control Officer and Inspector of Animals:

46 “ Barn” visits were made in the fall of 2015. The purpose is to document ownership of each animal, providing the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with data for response planning in an emergency. The “barn” visits are also to inspect for healthy animals, access to food , water, and adequate shelter.

Calls to ACO were as follows:

3-Missing dogs

4-Found dogs returned owners

1-Bat capture tested for rabies

4-Wildlife calls (raccoons, turtle, coyote)

2-Dog bites

1-Dog killing chickens

2-Alleged neglect

2-Quarantines for wounds of unknown origin

1-Barking dog complaint

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Donovan,
Animal Control Officer,
Inspector of Animals

REPORT OF THE FOOTHILLS HEALTH DISTRICT AGENT

During 2015, the department witnessed 7 perc tests and 15 Title 5 inspections. Septic system permits were issued for 17 new systems or system components. A total of \$11370.00 was collected in fees. An increase of \$3120.00 from last year. Partly due to the increase in the number of septic installations this year.

The following is a general breakdown of the many responsibilities handled on a regular basis by your Board of Health and the Health Agent:

- Witnessing percolation tests and Title 5 inspections for all new and replacement septic systems
- Permit review and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- Housing code inspections and enforcement
- Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- Tobacco regulation enforcement
- On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- Restaurant inspections

I may be reached at 268-8404. In-person help must be scheduled in advance. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at PO 447 Haydenville, MA 01039, or via email at VBird113@gmail.com I look forward to another productive year in Whately.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Bird, Health Agent

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

Permit Classification	Project Value	No.
Additions	518,800	5
Annual Inspections (not bp)	0	6
Barns/Sheds/Garages/Carport	149,500	3
Decks/Porches/Steps	24,565	6
Demo Misc	16,000	3
Earth Removal (not bp)	0	1
Foundation	11,000	1
Insulation/Weatherization	52,994	23
Pellet/Wood Stoves	28,591	9
Pools	67,528	3
Renovations	173,750	8
Repairs	30,800	7
Roofs	201,736	14
Solar	580,135	17
Sheet Metal/Hoods	20,000	3
Siding	34,288	2
Single Family Rebuild/Replace	402,750	2
Single Family Residences	658,474	2
Tent	700	1
Windows/Doors	71,866	7

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Miller, Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During the year 2015 the Plumbing Inspector's office received thirty-five permit applications. Eighteen were for plumbing work seventeen were for gas inspections. Two of the permits were for new homes and sixteen were for remodeling.

A total of \$2,295.00 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette, Plumbing Inspector

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Westhampton Zoning Board of Appeals this year was made up of Leo Aloisi - chairman, Richard W. Tracy - clerk, John Kelsey, Steve St. Marie, Wayne Parks, and Shirley Morrigan – alternate. Our Board at this time has room for two more alternate members. If you are interested or knowledgeable in this area you might consider filling these positions.

The Board meets every month on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, in the Annex Building. We sign off on building permit requests, answer questions, explain the Zoning Bylaws, and try to help people keep their property in compliance with the rules. When necessary we hold public hearings to consider Special Permits or Variances or an Appeal of an aggrieved party.

In 2015 we have held three Public Hearings:

1. May 12, 2015, a Public Hearing for Application #199, seeking a Special Permit for property at 72 Main Road. Permit granted.
2. September 8, 2015, a Public Hearing for Application #200, seeking a finding for property located between #310 and #324 on Northwest Road. Finding was determined in the negative.
3. November 10, 2015, a Public Hearing for application #201, seeking a Special Permit for a two family home on property at #245 Main Road. Hearing continued into 2016. No decision yet.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board spent several months of the past year holding public hearings and reviewing a special permit application for a sawmill and wood chipping operation off of Northwest Road which was not approved.

The real estate and building market remains slow. The Board reviewed and approved just a few building lots and building permit applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE VETERANS’ AGENT

The year 2014 veterans are still feeling the crunch of the economy and have many questions concerning health care, education, jobs and guidance; who do I turn to or where do I go? Veterans and Veterans’ family members can get quick answers and guidance from a website, MassVetsAdvisor.org. By logging onto this web site you will find avenues to State and Federal areas of need. If you are not computer savvy, then call your Veterans’ Service Officer and we become the front-line in your effort to get info and answers. Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 115, 108 provides many avenues for benefits for the veterans and their families.

Please contact the Veterans’ Office at 413-427-3054 to set up an appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Henning,
Veteran’s Agent

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Westhampton Council on Aging has completed another busy year. This year the board accepted the resignation of Liz Anderson and want to thank her for her many years of service as the chair.

- Current board members are:
- Louise Jasionkowski & Lillian Baxter..... Term ending June 2015
 - Jean Webster & Wendy Blow.....Term ending June 2016
 - Bill Magrone, & Shirley Raymond.....Term ending June 2017

The goal of the Westhampton Council on Aging is to enhance the quality of life for all Westhampton residents who are age 60 and over and to provide them a variety of services and activities. This year those services included: a quarterly newsletter; the H-E-N Program (Helping Elders in Need); the FRTA Transportation Program which provides transportation for seniors; monthly luncheons with informational and entertaining programs following; blood pressure checks; notary public services; help navigating through Medicare and other insurance programs; bus trips to area points of interest; computer support classes; monthly breakfasts; a Health & Wellness Fair; birthday and get well greetings; a monthly movie; as well as individual support and check-ins when needed.

The board continues to work on the project which will help us learn more about our senior population. Working with the Northern Hilltown COA Consortium we wrote and received funding from two different grant sources that will help us with this project. Both projects have to do with finding out about the needs of our elders and supporting those needs. We will be working with the Hilltown Health Centers and hope to have these plans more defined before the start of the new fiscal year. This grant funding also includes money to cover the cost of collaboration on our town newsletters. This will mean that our COA Newsletter will have a different look, but the good news is that it will be published monthly, starting with the March issue.

In addition to the grant with the Hilltown Health Center, we have secured a grant with the COAs in Chesterfield, Worthington and Goshen to fund some chair yoga classes. These will be starting at Westhampton Woods at the end of March.

We have expanded our work with emergency providers and this year we will again sponsor a health fair, which, in addition to our EMTs, will include collaboration with both our Fire and Police Department as well as other area service providers. We are pleased that our Health

and Wellness Fair has become a yearly event which will allow Westhampton seniors to be more prepared for their health care needs. We hope that each year we will have more Files of Life, hanging on the refrigerators of our Westhampton seniors!

The COA is grateful to the town for the funds that are voted to support the group. In addition, the COA receives grant funding from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs but our funding from a federal grant administered through the Highland Valley Elder Services has been cut during the last couple of years and we fear that this year we will not be eligible for any funds just for our town.

The Friends of the Westhampton COA has continued to be an active organization. This group gives those who would like to be a part of the Westhampton COA, but who live out of town, an opportunity to be a part of the organization. Likewise, those townspeople who would like to support the organization can become members of the Friends Group, regardless of age. The Friends have organized under the chairmanship of Connie Dragon, and the support of the other members of the Friends' board - Jean Alward, Liz Anderson, Sue Beaumier, Betty Gould, and Charlotte Wood who is the Treasurer. In addition to their work on membership, the Friends have planned successful trips – one which was a riverboat ride on the Connecticut, as well as a trip to the West Point Dress Parade to watch the U.S. Military Academy Cadet Review and to enjoy a guided tour. Each year this group raises funds with their annual Pie Sale and Raffle at the Fall Festival. They use these funds to recognize the 90th birthdays of the Westhampton seniors, make memorial donations, support the needs of the COA and subsidize senior trips.

The COA has a lending program in which we have many items available for borrowing. Please check with us if you need bath seats, canes, walkers, bed pads, etc.

The over 400 seniors living in Westhampton are fortunate to live in a community where many are willing to donate a great deal of time to the organization. Thanks to all those volunteers who give of their time and expertise: the board members; the Salt Triad Program; the volunteers who coordinate both the HEN Program and the FRTA transportation program; the many volunteer drivers; the luncheon planning committee; those who work on the Friends of the COA organization; those who send out the many cards; those who provide cupcakes for birthdays at each luncheon; those who are faithful photographers; and the many who help with our fundraising pie sale. In addition to all of these, there are many members who lend a helping hand in ways too numerous to count - thanks to all of you!

In addition to our local programs, members of the COA Board take part in the Hilltown Councils on Aging Consortium, the Highland Valley Elder Services Board of Directors, and many local initiatives such as the Transportation Committee under the leadership of the Hilltown CDC. Board members also attend training sessions offered by the Office of Elder Affairs.

We encourage those seniors living in Westhampton to attend the monthly luncheons, held on the first Thursday of each month (except August!) and the breakfasts held at Westhampton Woods at 8:00 a.m. on the third Friday of each month. Home cooked food, socialization, and a variety of interesting programs are available. This year the programs ran the gamut from our Intergenerational Program with the Fourth Graders, to informational programs about services available, music, animals and many more!

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Miller, Director

REPORT OF THE TRIAD COUNCIL

To empower those 60 and better, we strive to harness information and provide tools to seniors promoting their financial, medical, and physical safety and well-being. As volunteers, we are sponsored by the Hampshire County Sheriff's Dept. and the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney. Working with our Police Chief Dave White and Fire Chief Chris Norris, we assist in implementing Town and County safety programs.

TRIAD HISTORY

In 1988, three national groups: AARP, the Association of Chiefs of Police, and National Sheriffs' Association agreed crime prevention needs of older citizens could be best met by a cooperative effort. By signing an agreement, a Triad was formed. The National Assoc. of Triads today requires participation and leadership of three entities: law enforcement, adult volunteers, and community support groups. In 1992, Sheriff R. Garvey began the Hampshire County Triad; the first Westhampton Triad was formed in 1994.

FREE TRIAD PUBLICATIONS

"SPECIAL WISHES": 10 section guide organizes personal affairs, medical directives, will preparation, important documents. Found on Police website

"WHERE TO GET HELP": Directory of local, State, Federal services

"WESTHAMPTON: Preparing for Emergencies & Disasters": Manual for Survival Kits, Power Outages, Fire Safety, Storms, Sheltering

FILE OF LIFE: Every Second Counts. Your critical medical info card to keep visible at home, in wallet, car to assist responding emergency personnel

Triad 2011 Survey Results 60+: Surveyed needs of Town residents

2015 PROJECTS & FUTURE EVENTS

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: Promoting programs for safe storage/disposal to protect our land, water supply, and address the epidemic of addiction.

“SPECIAL WISHES”: Revised, updated. Go to Town Police website

“SAFE ENTRY PROGRAM”: Sponsors are Town Fire Dept. & County Sheriff. FREE home Lock Boxes to be offered and installed in 2016 for responding EMT’s and Emergency Services

BELLTOWER MONTHLY ARTICLES: Fraud alerts, Caregiving, Health, Disposal: Prescription Drugs, Downsizing, Housing, Family Communication

COA NEWS ARTICLES: Aging in Place, Support Services, Safety issues

TOWN DISASTER & EMERGENCY PLANNING: supporting Town officials by providing information to our senior citizens

FUND RAISING EVENTS: Triad is funded solely by donations. We thank you for your encouragement and support in meeting our yearly goals.

PROMOTING SAFETY & COMMUNICATION

We welcome your participation in reaching our Community goals. Email or call for publications and with any questions or concerns you want addressed.

Members: David Majercik, Chuck Horn, Don Graham, Connie Dragon (Associate member), and Ginny Curtis

westhamptontriad@comcast.net 529-9873

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Curtis, Chair

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library continues to be an important meeting and gathering place for our community. There are many regularly scheduled programs as well as a calendar of events and offerings for community members of all ages. In September 2015, after 25 years of service, Lyn Keating, our Library Director, retired. Lyn's dedication to the library and her skills as a Director was appreciated by the whole community. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the town. The Lyn Keating Program Fund was established by the Friends of the Westhampton Public Library to honor Lyn's years of service to the library.

In September, the Board hired Nancy Clune to be an interim director while we completed a search for a new director. Nancy served as interim until December 2015 when the Trustees hired Lynn Gingras to be the new Director of the Westhampton Public Library. Lynn is a resident of Haydenville, and recently received her Masters of Library Science from Simmons College in Boston. We are pleased to welcome her to the library.

Hilary Nolan continues in her position as staff librarian, creating and managing programs for children, covering the circulation desk and helping Lynn adjust to the new responsibilities of her position as Director. Hillary has also been serving on the committee to develop a new town website. Direct links to library resources will be available from this site.

The library is fortunate to have several wonderful volunteers we would like to thank: Victoria Yoshen, Ellice Gonzales, Helene Pajak, Sheila Marks and Lorraine Clapp O'Keefe who volunteer inside the library. Bev Montague, Sally Lawton, and Tom Martin volunteer their time to maintain the landscaping at the library.

The Trustees also appreciate the work of Jared Brown, custodian, who keeps the library clean and well cared for.

In 2015 there were 936 residents who held library cards. Our library provided 3,939 items via interlibrary loan to other libraries while loans from other libraries decreased to 2,913 items. The overall circulation for the fiscal year was 21,683 items. The library hosted 395 programs with total attendance of 4,675.

The Friends of the Westhampton Public Library had 164 members in fiscal year 2015. This group is an invaluable source of support for the library through their fundraising efforts. The Friends provide “Fill the Shelves Funds” raised during their membership drive and funding for programs, art exhibits, and concerts. The Friends, along with the Elementary School PTO, sponsor the Fall Festival held each year at the library.

As of February 2016, the library solar panels have generated \$10,287.00 from the sale of solar renewable energy credits. This income goes into the town’s General Fund.

The Trustees budget request for the coming fiscal year represents what the Trustees believe to be the minimum needed to continue providing quality library services to Westhampton and to maintain Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees:
Maureen Dempsey, Chair
Andrea Belanger, Treasurer
Carol McMurrich, Secretary

Lynn Cooper
Aniko Giordano
Michelle Nevins

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council was allotted \$4400 by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to fund grant applications in FY16, \$100 was allotted this year for expenses. With our previous balance, including earned interest, and our FY 2016 allotment we were able to grant \$4631. We received 18 grants and approved 13.

The following applications were approved for FY15:

Amy Cyr/Otha Day Drum to the Beat	\$170
Chester Theatre Company/Education Programs	\$200
Deane Bates/WES Fieldtrip	\$732
Friend of Westhampton Library/Field of Dreams	\$539
Hampshire Music Booster/Spring Musical	\$500
Ruth Harcovitz/Songs of WW11	\$375
Hilltown Families/Hilltown Families Suggest	\$100
North Hall Association	\$200
Fran Ryan/Horizon Production Presentations	\$500
Julie Ann Stepanek/Ukelele Workshop	\$300
Westhampton Public Library/Robots on the Run	\$300

The Council tries to present a well-balanced distribution of projects/arts/music/theatre in order to benefit all residents of Westhampton. Please contact the Selectboard and/or Ann Lewis, Chair WCC, if you wish to be appointed to the Council, or with any ideas for future grants and rewards.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lewis, Chair

Sarah Mulvehill

Robbie Heidinger

Jackie Brodeur

Greg Reynolds

John Zimmerman

Robby Armenti

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission in 2015 was made up of Richard W. Tracy-chairperson, Steve Brooks, Robert Dragon, Daniel Krug, Jr., and Leonard Day. Leonard was appointed by the Selectboard during the year and we are pleased to have him. With his knowledge and wide interest he will be a great addition to the commission. Dave Goddard, as Treasurer of the Friends group, meets with us each month, and he is also our main computer expert. Barbara Pelissier also meets with us regularly in her position of President of the Historical Society. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, except December. We meet at 7:00 pm, at the museum on 5 Stage Road and we welcome any interested folks to join us there.

The Museum is open each Sunday afternoon between 2:00 and 4:00, from Memorial Day until the Fall Festival in October. We also open for special requests or groups. Our main responsibility is the maintenance and enhancement of the museum and contents. Along with this responsibility is the need to study and teach the history, values, and ethics, of those who came before us, so we can better appreciate what we have received and enjoy every day. Also, to consider how we might improve on it for those who will follow in our places.

This year we built new display booths in the blacksmith portion of the building, which gives more wall space, and much neater display areas. We had to replace the name sign on the building, and did other regular maintenance. In July we held our annual Chicken Bar-B-Que in conjunction with one of the Town's summer concerts. This is a great community event and good family enjoyment. Likewise, we are an integral part of the Fall Festival each October which is a grand finale to our season. In June we always enjoy the Third graders coming to visit as they study their town history. The Town is implementing a new

website for the whole town, and we are looking forward to becoming active users as a way of promoting some of our programs.

We sponsored a program at the library telling the history of the village of Loudville which generated much interest, and in 2016 we plan to have an on - site follow up pointing out the locations of the various mills and homes that were there in the 1800's. Be on the lookout for this event sometime in April.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Chair

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Members: Brad Morse(Chair), Fred Morrison, Peter Cleary, Elvira Loncto, Bob LaPalme(Secretary), Steve Holt(Associate)

Under The Wetlands Protection Act, eight “interests” are protected by town conservation commissions across the state. Those commissions process thousands of applications every year for permits to do work in and near wetlands, floodplains, banks, riverfront areas, beaches and surface waters, (source: Mass Assn of Conservation Commissions).

The eight important public values subject to protection referred to as “interests” are 1. Protection of public and private water supply 2. Protection of groundwater supply 3. Flood control 4. Storm damage prevention 5. Prevention of pollution 6. Protection of land containing shellfish 7. Protection of fisheries 8. Protection of wildlife habitat.

What follows is a brief summary of WCC activities for year 2015:

Site visit	11
Determination (informal, no further action)	5
Public hearing	5
Request for Determination (RDA)	5
Notice of Intent	2
Order of conditions	2
Certificate of Compliance	2
Violation concern	0
Enforcement order	0
Cutting plan notification	8
Septic upgrade	4
Emergency septic repair	2

Additional activity:

- Change of Chair from Brad Morse to Steve Holt (appointed Conservation Commission Associate)
- New member Elvira Loncto
- One extension request, order of conditions
- Conservation Commission laptop upgrade
- Meeting room change from Annex to Town Hall
- Several building permit sign off by Commission

Conservation Restricted Properties annually monitored by WCC:

- Westahampton Public Library Conservation Restricted Area
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted Area; Skibiski
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Sarafin
- Hilltown Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Weiss donor
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Glass donor

Respectfully submitted,

Bob LaPalme, Secretary

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

Routine clean-up and maintenance completed in early spring continuing until late Fall.

Grub control was performed by Charles Norris.

The equipment is in good working condition.

A zero turn rear discharge commercial mower was purchased this year and has been working well.

There were:

4 Traditional burials

7 cremations

Beginning in early April 2015 until Late December 2015.

3 burial lots were acquired.

5 monument foundations were installed.

I would like to thank the Westhampton Highway Department for their assistance this year. I would also like to thank Don Fox and the Westhampton Fire Department for continuing to keep the water tanks filled at the cemetery.

I can be reached by calling (413) 527-6480 or (413) 626-2259.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward H. Thornton,
Cemetery Superintendent

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Writing the “Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools” provides a meaningful opportunity to look back comprehensively and ask, “What did we accomplish?”, “What accomplishment are we continuing to pursue?” and “How will we adjust our strategies and actions to reach the more challenging goals that we have set for ourselves?”

Looking back at 2015, I am reminded that our schools must always be looking forward as we prepare our students to be “21st century learners” with the promise of making them “future ready” lifelong learners. We are often reminded that we are preparing students for jobs and careers that don’t exist yet, in some cases jobs that haven’t even been imagined. We know, however, that critical thinking, cooperation, communication, and creativity are essential for our students to succeed. To ensure our instructional practice includes these foundational skills, teachers at all levels and throughout all of our schools continually review and revise their curriculum and teaching practices. At the same time, we remain focused on the importance and vibrancy of our local communities knowing it is critical for our towns and schools to work together as “Six Towns, One K-12 Community” to achieve our goal of providing all students with the safety and support they need to grow and succeed.

School safety and emergency preparedness planning continue to be significant activities. All of our schools are fortunate to be located in communities with responsive local police, fire, ambulance, and other emergency management personnel. Working together with the Massachusetts State Police, our individual schools continue to tighten daily procedures (including those that are in place to protect students on their way to and from school) and improve coordinated District actions to respond to emergencies. We continue to refine our procedures and make changes where necessary including updates to our Medical

Emergency Plans and Emergency Operations Procedures. It is regrettable these actions are necessary and place additional demands on an already tight academic calendar but it is a reality we live with and a responsibility we accept knowing that we must work conscientiously to protect our children.

To be effective, we rely on highly skilled, qualified, and compassionate teachers and support staff. As a group, they ensure that our schools support our students and community. As individuals, they come to the District with varied backgrounds and training and everyone makes a unique contribution. Each year the Grinspoon Foundation recognizes the contributions individual teachers with the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards. For 2015, Patricia Parent (HRHS special education teacher), Sunday Burke (Southampton 5th grade teacher), and Sarah Huntington (Williamsburg school adjustment counselor) received this prestigious award. Mr. John Heffernan (Williamsburg technology teacher) was presented with a Local Hero award from the Ronald McDonald Charities for his work supporting children. Additionally, we hired a new Vice Principal at William E. Norris School in Southampton and a new Middle School Vice Principal at Hampshire Regional High School. Welcome Mr. Kevin Cousineau and Mr. Matt Collins.

Hampshire Regional Middle/High School completed focused professional development on the NEASC accreditation process. Middle and high school staff participated in a workshop focused on meeting the needs of English language learners in the regular classroom. Staff at the high school participated in a series of workshops including: Differentiated Instruction/Assessments; Reading Across the Content Areas; Writing Across the Content Areas; Executive Functioning; Technology Tools; and Suicide Prevention.

Professional development for the elementary schools supported targeted each schools training goals while simultaneously recognizing where individual school needs overlap. Workshops addressed: Autism and Everyday Strategies for Managing It; Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum; Responsive Classroom; Fractions in the Elementary School; Reading and Writing Workshop for Grades K-2 Teachers; Developing Whole School or Cross Grade Thematic Curriculum; and Reading and Writing Workshop for grades 3 and 4 Teachers. For paraprofessionals, a multi-session workshop, Differentiated Instructional Strategies, was provided.

Hampshire Regional Middle/High, Norris Elementary School and Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School completed a DESE English Language Education Program Coordinated Review. Although the schools have a low-incidence of English language learners, students with many different language backgrounds including, Russian, Turkish, Nepali, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish, Filipino and Mandarin, are served by the through the districts ELL programs.

It takes many people to hold our schools on the path of enlightenment (effective schools). Each school has many parents and community members supporting its mission including a PTO, School Council, and School Committee. The School Committee is responsible for budget and policy, as well as evaluation of the superintendent. The PTO works to provide support for many school and community enrichment activities with its fund raising and organizing efforts. Each school is required to have a School Council made up of teachers, parents, and community members. The council makes recommendations to the school principal for the development, implementation and assessment of school improvement plan and also assists in the review of the school budget. Local participation is critical and I encourage you to become involved and follow and support the efforts of these groups

(information is shared in school newsletters and on school websites, all of which are linked through www.hr-k12.org).

At the end of 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved Worthington's plan to create a new public school district and reopen the R.H. Conwell School. Hampshire Regional entered into an agreement to provide administrative support and services to the new district and our high school entered into a tuition agreement with Worthington which allows Worthington high schools students to attend Hampshire Regional. For the 2015-2016 school year there are 15 Worthington students attending Hampshire. This tuition revenue helps support the high school's operational budget and money paid for administrative services defrays the cost of central office services to the other five district towns.

School budgets provide the backdrop for telling the story of each school and the District. How a school appropriates and uses its available funding translates to and defines what is important to the administration, teachers, support staff and the community because it represents what these groups want and need to provide to their students. Because of the District's structure, annual budget preparation is a complicated process. The budgeting requirements and expectations of individual towns, as well as the budgeting requirements set by state law for regional school districts, guide our budget development calendar and activities. Percentages increases and decreases vary from one school to another but broadly speaking, most funding fits into five main categories: salaries, administrative support, materials, contracted services, and transportation. From one budget year to another, school administrators work with local officials and community members to ensure that each school budget is adequate, equitable, and predictable and developed with input from all stakeholders in a clear and transparent process. The support of our member communities is

appreciated as much as it is essential to the future of our students and communities.

Winter weather is always hard to predict and difficult to plan for. Each year the challenge of interpreting weather forecasts and deciding when to delay or cancel school impacts everyone in our school community. District administrators and school committees have engaged in substantive discussions related to the management of the school year calendar and how to meet the states 180 day minimum requirement. All districts have worked with teachers' associations to facilitate flexibility in starting school prior to Labor Day each year and to promote coordinated calendar scheduling. That said, we still are faced with challenging decisions about school cancellations and delays. These decision are not always understood by parents and community members and certainly do not please everyone. The decision to close or delay, however, is always based on careful consideration of the impact the weather will have on safe travel to and from school for our students and staff. Highway superintendents, bus company supervisors, other district administrators (our own, as well as those in neighboring districts) are all consulted. Some decisions are more easily made than others, some admittedly simply turn out to be wrong but every decision is informed by all available information and the need to ensure that our students and staff can safely travel to school and back home.

I am very proud of the work our teachers, support staff, and administrators have done to enhance learning opportunities and achievement outcomes for all students. As you know, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is currently revising the Commonwealth's MCAS testing program. 2016 will be a transition year for the program and the MCAS our students complete will be augmented with a small number of PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) items. Implementation of the Commonwealth's next generation MCAS

2.0 will occur in the spring of 2017. Initially these tests will be administered in paper/pencil format with DESE planning to move to computer-based testing by 2019. Assessment data specific to the performance of students in our schools is available on the DESE website: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/> using the “profiles” and assessment options.

Our work together in the schools and communities is complex, sometimes overwhelming, and yet unquestionably essential and rewarding. Together we make a positive difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities in which we work. We are increasingly coming together as a learning community and engage in expanding our shared commitment for improving the education we provide to our children. I encourage you to visit the individual school’s or Superintendent’s website (www.hr-k12.org) for current news and information about our students and District activities, as well as a detailed explanation of school budget development. This website will also provide you with links to individual school websites and to useful information from numerous resources. Whenever you have a question or wish to become involved in your community schools, please call me or the principal of your local school.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Jurgensen,
Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Federal and state law requires that students from 3-22 years of age who are identified as having a disability are provided with individually designed instruction to meet their unique learning needs. The Hampshire Regional School District provides services to 412 students

with disabilities on Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Students in each of the six schools receive special education services both in and out of the general education classroom. These services are provided by special education certified teachers and related service providers. Current related services include: occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, nursing/medical services, counseling, autism consultation clinical consultation, vision therapy, and teacher of the deaf services.

School	Total Enrollment	Special Education Students
Hampshire	751	150
Chesterfield-Goshen	154	27
Westhampton	142	35
Williamsburg	169	26
Southampton	533	111
Worthington	50	8
Smith Vocational	93	43
Out of District	12	12
Total	1908	412

During the 2014-2015 school year the district completed a Coordinated Program Review for each school in the areas of: Special Education, Civil Rights and English Language Learner programs. The program review resulted in few findings requiring corrective action. School Principals and the Director of Pupil Services worked together to implement corrective action plans, which included professional development and ongoing monitoring to reach one hundred percent compliance. Program Quality Assurance, a branch of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, continues to monitor compliance. Special Education Professional Development grant funds have been dedicated to supporting students with social, emotional and behavioral challenges. There has been a sharp increase of students with

significant needs. Administration, staff and families work together with outside agencies to meet the varied needs of our students to support school success for all students.

The Hampshire Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Counsel (HRSEPAC) meets regularly as a group and annually with principals. The activities of HRSEPAC include advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; development, and evaluation of special education programs. The HRSEPAC continues to recruit representatives from Chesterfield-Goshen and Westhampton districts.

Teachers in Southampton, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Chesterfield-Goshen and Hampshire Regional completed intensive training in the Orton Gillingham approach to reading. The Pupil Services Director and Principals are working together to implement the use of Orton Gillingham approach to teaching reading in each school. Southampton teachers have enrolled in a two year Level Two training. The long-term goal is to have a teacher in the district trained to be an Orton-Gillingham trainer. Having a specialized reading program in each school will improve services to students with learning disabilities.

On the elementary level, a program was created at the W.E. Norris School in Southampton to support children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other social, emotional and behavioral needs. Southampton also has a specialized preschool program designed to meet the needs of students with moderate to severe special needs. This program is in its second year and continues to be at capacity.

At HRHS, the Life Skills program has undergone evaluation and change. The middle school program is designed to teach and assess whether students will take an academic or life skills/vocational course of study in high school. The Transition to Adulthood program for

students who are 18-21 years old includes an option for to participate in Holyoke Community College's Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program. For students seeking a work experience, working with a job coach to secure competitive employment is an important part of school programming. A Peer Mentoring program was added to support students with disabilities as they develop relationships with typical students with whom they can interact throughout their school day.

The Clarke Mainstream program at HRHS expanded into an eighth grade this year. There are two sophomores and four seniors. HRHS has implemented numerous changes and improvements to provide for greater information access of auditory information including video display monitors for announcements and information-sharing throughout the school. HRHS also added a high school language-based learning disabilities teacher to meet the needs of students transitioning to high school from the middle school. Middle School and High School teachers who work with Clarke Mainstream program students and language based learning disabled students have had focused professional development during the 2015-2016 school year.

There have been increased numbers of students who require social, emotional and behavioral supports in schools. Students diagnosed with Autism have also increased. The district has completed focused professional development to support staff in meeting students' diverse and intensive needs. Trainings on the following topics have been offered in 2015: Responsive Classroom, Tiered Behavioral Supports, De-escalation and Restraint Techniques, Functional Behavior Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plans and Mindfulness.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Ryan, MSW, CAGS
Director of Pupil Services

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

In 2015 Hampshire Regional students and faculty engaged in a dynamic year of teaching and learning.

For the third year in a row, Hampshire Regional earned a spot on the College Board's Advanced Placement Honor Roll. This prestigious award is given to 425 schools across the United States and Canada for increasing AP access to courses while also maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning a 3 (out of 5 possible points) or higher on AP Exams. Seventy-seven Hampshire Regional students took a total of 115 Advanced Placement exams in 14 subjects including United States History, Calculus, Biology, English Literature, Macroeconomics, Studio Art, and Spanish. Sixty-seven percent of students earned a 3 or higher on their exam.

In March and May, students in seventh, eighth, and tenth grade took the English Language Arts and mathematics sections of The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Eighth, ninth, and tenth graders took the science section of MCAS in May and June. All students in a public school setting are required to pass the English Language Arts, mathematics, and science MCAS exams in high school to earn their diploma by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Hampshire Regional students outperformed the state in every subject at every grade level. Forty-two seniors received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship based on their MCAS scores, and an additional 38 students qualified for the Koplik Award. These awards qualify students for free tuition to a state university in Massachusetts. Although students' performance and progress is commendable, Hampshire was assigned the status of a Level Two school. The state

education department expects schools to halve the distance between the level of performance from 2011 to 2017. Since Hampshire's performance is consistently strong, it is challenging to meet the requirements of that narrow performance gap.

Academic programming continued to be the focus for the Hampshire learning community. Teachers provided students with authentic learning opportunities and pushed students to use different instructional methods and assessments. Notably, French teacher Greg Reynolds developed an exchange program with a school from Southern France, and Hampshire hosted ten foreign students for a ten day period. The History Department ran a field trip to Washington DC for sophomores, connecting their learning in the classroom to on-site locations of historical significance. Middle school scientists built streams in their classrooms and learned about organisms, habitats, and environments with this hands-on learning opportunity. The high school statistics class held a casino-day based on the projects they completed in class on simulating probability scenarios. A number of upperclassmen students took advantage of the work study program and internship program. These accomplishments are just a small sampling of the great work that Hampshire students did in 2015.

The Hampshire community initiated a number of strategies to support students' mental and emotional health and wellness. The Hampshire Regional School Committee committed to offering a high school health class to inform students about healthy decision-making, especially related to substance abuse and positive relationships. The club Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) led by English teacher Courtney Sullivan and paraprofessional Sarah Jablonski enacted a mock accident before prom to remind students to be safe. After seniors graduated, underclassmen had the opportunity to hear Chris Herren, former Celtics basketball star, share his story about his drug addiction, his path to sobriety, and his techniques for making smart choices in life.

Mr. Herren covered topics including gateway drugs, peer pressure, cutting, bullying, and drunk driving. His message made an impact on the student body, and many students and staff have requested for him to visit Hampshire on a regular basis. Faculty and staff continue to engage in professional development and discussion regarding prevention, intervention, and postvention planning for different crisis situations.

Students enjoyed a plethora of extracurricular opportunities as well. Students performed *Little Shop of Horrors* for the spring musical, starring Cody Labrecque as Seymour and Julie Lussier as Audrey. A number of young musicians were selected to be in the Western District Music Festival. *The Raider Report*, Hampshire's student-led newspaper, published six editions of local and world news and special interest articles. Other popular clubs include the SciFanime club, the Robotics club, Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, and As School Match Wits.

In April, Pat Parent, our eighth-grade special education teacher, received the honor of being named as the Grinspoon Teacher of the Year from Hampshire Regional. Ms. Parent was nominated for this award because of her investment in the learning community, her willingness and consistent effort to support students, and her exceptional collaboration with teachers and families.

In June of 2015, Hampshire graduated 119 students. Valedictorian Sasha Clapp of Westhampton, Salutatorian Daniel Baldwin of Southamptn, and class president Savannah Waters of Southamptn were among the student speakers on Friday, June 5 at John M. Greene Hall in Northampton. Fifty-three percent of graduates from the class of 2015 planned on attending a four or five year college, thirty-three percent of graduates intended to enroll at a two-year college, while the

remaining fourteen percent decided between the military, employment and travel.

The 2015-2016 school year welcomed 751 students to Hampshire Regional.

Grade	Number of Students
7	139
8	142
9	102
10	112
11	118
12	138
Total	751

At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, the Hampshire Regional faculty and staff welcomed some new faces. Matthew Collins accepted the position of Middle School Assistant Principal replacing Interim Assistant Principal Chris Murphy. Mr. Collins, who was formerly the Middle School Assistant Principal at JFK Middle School in Northampton, started on July 1. Special Education Teacher Nancy Parlakulas took a position as Special Education Director in the Gill-Montague Regional School District and Edwin Scagel was hired in her place. In the special education department, Christy Parent replaced Liz Dwyer as a middle school special education teacher, and Karen Milch moved from the reading specialist position into the Evaluation Team Leader position. Michele Tola, formerly at Valley West, replaced Karen Milch as the high school reading specialist. Daniel Korpita, a HRHS graduate, was hired as a physical education and health teacher in the wellness department. Kirsti Wiemokly accepted the History/English teaching position. Both Mr. Korpita and Ms. Wiemokly also agreed to be faculty advisors for the class of 2019. Barbara Cheney, Hampshire’s part-time English Language Learners teacher accepted a job at Holyoke Community College, and she was

replaced by Maura Kornbluth. Finally, Cyla O'Connor replaced Jenny Livingstone in the math department. Ms. O'Connor was teaching at Agawam High School before coming to Hampshire Regional.

The faculty and staff worked on a number of professional development initiatives during 2015. Most notably, the professional staff completed the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Self Study process to prepare our school for the decennial evaluation visit in May of 2016. Through this process, the faculty identified strengths and needs in seven standards including Core Values and Learning Expectations, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, Leadership and Culture, School Resources, and Community Resources. In addition to these NEASC initiatives, all faculty participated in professional development on *Supporting All Students*. Workshops for this professional development included topics on differentiated instruction, writing across the content, reading across the content, technology skills, suicide prevention, and executive functioning. Staff had access to optional professional development opportunities in supporting English language learners, language based learning, and other content specific topics.

For this school year, HRHS School Council has determined six additional goals to accomplish in its school improvement plan. These goals include preparing Hampshire Regional for the NEASC Site Visit in 2016, preparing students to be college and career ready, sharing information about academic and extracurricular accomplishments with the five member towns, aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment to the Common Core, using data to monitor, inform, plan, and adjust programs; and ensuring protocols and practice for student safety.

In addition to the teaching and learning taking place, a number of building and grounds updates were completed this year including the

installation of a new track, upkeep and renovation to the gym floor, boiler maintenance, installation of door hardware with internal locks, and installation of new wireless access points throughout the building. Since the building renovation took place over ten years ago, these maintenance upgrades are necessary to ensure a safe environment for learning to take place. The school committee also explored a number of solar and alternative power source options for the school. This work will continue into 2016.

As the challenges and strengths of the 21st century learner shift, we recognize the need to adapt our curriculum and instruction without compromising rigor. Educators at Hampshire Regional are committed to providing an exceptional education that will prepare students to become contributing members of our local communities after they graduate. Despite the continuously growing demands of the profession, the faculty and staff work tirelessly to put our students' needs at the center of our collective efforts. I am honored to be a part of the collegial and collaborative community at Hampshire Regional.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Smidy, Principal

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Another successful year for Hampshire athletics, here are some highlights:

During the Winter of 2015, both the boys and girls basketball team qualified for post-season tournaments with the boys' team reaching the WMass semi-finals.

Boys' coach, Claudinor Salomao, was chosen by the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association as the WMass Division 3 Boys' Coach of the Year.

8 Indoor track athletes qualified for the State Championships because of their outstanding performances in WMass.

In wrestling, two athletes, Brandon Weyant and Nick Hoskin, reached the 100 career win milestone. Brandon, along with teammate Brendan Weir, went on to win WMass championships in their weight class and each placed 2nd in the State. They both went on to compete at New England's and Brandon also participated at Nationals winning 5 matches, narrowly missing All American status.

Wrestling coach Todd Bryant was chosen Coach of the Year by his colleagues.

The Spring was an exciting time on the track and fields at Hampshire. Individual track athletes again competed well enough to qualify not only for the WMass Championships but a few saw action on the State level as well.

The baseball team, under the direction of Coach Bob Dombkowski, made it all the way to the WMass Championship game, eventually coming out as the 2nd best D3 team in the region.

The softball team had their best season ever under the direction of Coach Brian McGan. They won their league championship, then went on to win the WMass Championship and finally brought home the first ever State Championship in softball in Hampshire's history! As if that wasn't enough, the team was chosen as the MIAA D2 Sportsmanship Award winner. Lastly, Coach McGan was honored as the MIAA State Softball Coach of the Year.

As the calendar year wrapped up we found ourselves with two more league champions. Both Boys' Soccer and Girls' Cross Country had great success this past fall.

The girls did exceptionally well in the post season placing 2nd in both the PVIAC Championship as well as being named the WMass runner-up. Senior Taylor Blow was the individual winner in both of these events featuring hundreds of runners. Head coach Sue Tracy, was chosen by the WMASS Track Coaches Association as the WMass Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year.

The Gymnastics team had some fine individual performances at the WMass Championships highlighted by 8th grader Maura Joseph coming in 6th in the All-Around category. Senior Nick Hoskin was named the Individual Champion on the Uneven Bars.

Also worth mentioning, numerous Hampshire Athletes were recognized as All League and WMass selections.

We have much to be proud of at Hampshire with our athletes representing their school and communities admirably!

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann B. Trytko, CAA
Director of Athletics

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Deane Bates is pleased to report that the last year at Westhampton Elementary has once again been positive and productive. We have been able to make steady progress towards our long-term goals of continued improvement of the educational program and maintaining and updating our facilities.

This is the second year of our implementation of the Envisions math program district wide. This year the program has been updated to meet common core and state standards. The adoption of the 2.0 Envisions program is an important step in focusing our efforts and maintaining a consistent approach toward math instruction in Kindergarten through grade six. I am confident that this work will pay dividends, as we continue our efforts to improve math instruction in our school and district wide.

This year a major focus of our school improvement program has been to create a more sophisticated approach for managing student behavioral and emotional needs. Many schools across the country are recognizing the importance of tiered systems of behavior management. These systems resemble the way schools have traditionally supported students' academic needs. A well-managed system of supports for our students will have a positive impact on our students' academic progress and school wide morale. Simply put, a tiered approach helps us to have a more consistent approach for matching a level of support and service to a particular student's need.

We have dedicated much of our professional development time to training staff in responding proactively and positively to student behavior. Another important component of this system is having

supports and procedures in place for students and families who are in need of therapeutic interventions and crisis services.

We continue our efforts in integrating technology into the curriculum. Over the last summer we were able to significantly increase the number of computers available for student use. We purchased over 30 computers and two printers for classroom use. I am sure this will prove to be helpful to better prepare our school's technology capacity as state testing shifts toward a digital platform in the near future. John Heffernan from Williamsburg once again taught our robotics program at the school part time. All of our students have the opportunity to participate in robotics appropriate to their grade level for at least part of the school year.

Another area that we are focusing our efforts on is having more opportunities for students to take part in after school enrichment. Once again math and ski clubs are going strong. This year students in math club have been competing in math competitions and we had 32 students participate in skiing this year. A new addition has been the use of movement breaks in the classroom. Students are learning how to use yoga and mindfulness to center themselves and be more present during the school day. This year students have the chance to take part in a school wide musical, The Wizard Of Oz. We are planning on having the performance at the end of May. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Paul, Andy Hilnbrand, Brigid O'Riordan, Ella Demar and the members of our PTO for offering their time and experience to make these after school activities available.

Safety continues to be an important focus of our work together. Our staff and students worked with local fire and police as well as representatives from the state police to improve and refine our safety plan in the event of an emergency. Again this year, we had opportunities to practice fire drills and a lock down drill with support

from emergency service personnel. These drills are an important part of emergency preparedness. Officer Phil provided training for students in grades pre-school through 4th grade in personal safety and making good choices. We continue to update and refine our policies and practices regarding life threatening allergies and responding to crisis situations at recess. All of our staff members have received training in responding to these types of emergencies.

In June, we graduated a class of 23 students: Julia Ann Brennan, Matthew Champagne, Jerry Creek, Morgan Dunham, Ian Dunlap, Katelynn Dunn, Piper Everitt, Justin Forest, Neave Hackett, Aidan Illingsworth, Madeline Jenkins, Allison Johndrow, Kaylie Novak, Jessie Paradis Stern, Zoe Paradis Stern, Nathaniel Picard, Damian Potter, Jillian Scott, Emma Skrocki, Garrett Tenzar, Amanda Tobin, Kennan West, Lauren Wilcox. I congratulate these students on their successful completion of Elementary School.

Our staffing patterns have shifted somewhat; Ellen McKenzie retired from her position of second grade teacher at the end of December. We hired Amanda Faro, who recently taught second grade at the Martin Luther King Charter School in Springfield. Amanda and Mrs. McKenzie were able to overlap their teaching duties through the month of December to ensure a positive transition for students and staff alike. This year we hired Beth Millay as a Kindergarten special education aide. Beth is quickly proving herself to be an integral part of our Kindergarten program.

This year we will once again have exceptional costs associated with our special education program. It is our obligation to provide specialized programming for students when we are unable to meet their needs with existing staff or programs. This year we are better able to anticipate the cost of these services and budget appropriately. Once again this year

we will be using a large chunk of our school choice money to cover these costs and keep the operational budget request reasonable.

As part of the No Child Left Behind Program, schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. ***Our school has been placed into Level 1.*** Schools are also ranked using percentiles: A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. ***Our school percentile rank is 86.*** This means that our school is performing higher than 86 percent of the elementary schools in the state. Incidentally, Massachusetts's public schools are among the highest performing schools in the country.

Another measure used is the Progress and Performance Index (PPI): The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success in high school and beyond. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher. ***Our cumulative progress and performance index is 92.***

Our success has made Westhampton Elementary a popular destination for school choice students. In recent years, the School Choice Program has enabled us to have another source of revenue and helped us to continue to be responsive to student needs. Although we have many applications each year for potential choice students we are conservative in accepting new students to ensure reasonable class sizes and maintain our ability to service students from our community. Each year we take a substantial amount of choice money that we receive and use it to

offset increases in the budget. This revenue source has for many years allowed us to keep budget increases reasonable. In addition to using choice money in these ways it is imperative to use this money to continue to make improvements in our educational programs to keep Westhampton Elementary in a strong position to best serve our students and remain an attractive school for choice candidates.

I am proud of this school, our staff and these students. We will always do our best to meet the needs of our families and to be responsible financial partners with our town.

	Total
Preschool	12
Kindergarten	19
1st	18
2nd	18
3rd	16
4th	17
5th	19
6th	23
School Totals	142

Respectfully submitted,

Deane Bates, Principle

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Annual Report for fiscal year 2015

To the Residents of the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative:

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns with volunteer local boards attain sustainability and environmental objectives.

The member Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY15 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); Adam Leach, Vice Chair (Worthington); and, Tom Martin, Treasurer (Westhampton). In October, Kathleen Casey assumed the contracted half-time position of HRMC Administration filling the position that had been vacated in July.

The HRMC has been helping hilltown member communities manage all aspects of their solid waste including: municipal waste hauling and disposal, recycling, hazardous waste, DEP compliance assistance, and sustainability services. In FY15 those services comprised:

- Bid Administration, Contract Administration, and contractor transition to both a 3-year Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) hauling contract and a 3-year Municipal Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal Contract for each of the member towns.
- Administration and Execution of a new 5-year MRF contract with DEP and Waste Management.

- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, and Freon removal from appliances. Implementing a new Call2Recycle battery collection service. Additionally, the Town of Williamsburg became a regional mattress-recycling center for HRMC community residents.
- Transfer Station operations and compliance monitoring including the implementation of DEP transfer station regulations that were announced in February 2014.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys and reports.
- DEP Grant Administration including reporting and grant writing.

In addition to the managing the day to day business and program operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee and, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinators; advocates with local, regional, and State officials; and, is available to provide technical assistance on DEP and compliance related issues.

In FY15, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Small-Scale Initiative Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Nine of HRMC town received a grant award of \$500. Collectively, the grant awards totaled \$ 4,500, which the towns used to acquire transfer station signs to meet new regulatory requirements, and to do public outreach. In addition, two HRMC Towns were the recipients of additional grants under the Recycling Dividends Program (Goshen and Williamsburg). In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 7,300.00 in grant funding - an increase of \$2,300.00 over the previous year. Grant applications for

FY16 were submitted in June for a total of more than \$18,000 in funding requests.

The HRMC has an annual assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY15 the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$39,487.56. After two years of budget reductions, the Assessment Budget has remained level funded for the past 5 years. The Assessments are intended to offset base operating expenses. Recycling program/collection costs (other than MRF) are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize the economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor contracts/relations, and program operations.

A review of recycling tonnage for FY 2015 shows an increase of nearly 43 tons compared to FY14. In FY15, the HRMC member Towns collectively diverted 1,085.57 tons of recyclable materials (paper, and bottles/cans) to the MRF and earned \$19,018.14 in recycling revenue despite low market prices throughout the year.

The HRMC looks forward to continuing to assist the member Towns during the upcoming year. If you have questions about HRMC programs, call us at 413-685-5498 or by email at hrmc@hrmc-ma.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Casey
HRMC Administrator

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

“In Fiscal Year 2015, The Council saved over \$4.6 Million for our member towns. That’s an average of \$72 per resident. We’re proud to support local town governments, and we look forward to offering even greater value and expanded services in 2016.”

—Todd Ford

Executive Director

Council Overview

The Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) is a collective body made up of representatives from 15 Hampshire County towns. HCOG has two key focuses: to improve residential life in Hampshire County, and to provide our small towns with the advantage of economies of scale typically available only to larger cities. We accomplish these goals by promoting the local economy, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and aggregating the buying power of our residents. HCOG is not funded primarily by grants or taxes, but rather by fee-for-service programs that generate revenue sufficient to support its operating costs. Modest membership fees are also collected from member communities.

2015—Our Best Year Yet!

HCOG has consistently demonstrated a high return on investment for our member communities: this year has been no exception. There was a simultaneous upswing in value provided and a large drop in dues collected. In fiscal year 2015 (FY15), the total estimated savings secured for member towns was \$4,626,195. During the same period,

member towns paid a collective \$25,509 in dues to HCOG—approximately half of what they paid in the previous year. That means our member towns saw an increase in return on investment of over 200%!

About our Programs:

Hampshire Power

Hampshire Power is HCOG's competitive electricity supply subsidiary and the only non-profit in the industry, statewide. Our pricing is highly competitive when compared to both utility rates and other competitive suppliers. We have been successful in procuring rates as low as \$.108 per KWh for entire cities (like Lowell), as well as businesses, non-profits, and municipal clients.

Sustainability

Our sustainability department has grown over the past three years. In the last years, revenue has gone from \$3,437 (FY13), to \$13,100 (FY14), to \$25,883. We are now brokering Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) for 600 people—almost three times as many as last year (214 clients). These clients represent over 4.5 million annual kilowatt hours, 266,443 square feet of solar arrays, and 4,478 SRECs—valued at \$1,369,540. Generating this amount of power through solar technology avoided the release of 3,136 tons of carbon dioxide byproduct.

Hampshire County Group Insurance

The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT) provides health and life insurance to over 10,000 individuals. The HCGIT's revenue increased from \$49,097,910 to \$53,770,883 over the past fiscal

year: a 9.5% increase. 11 out of 15 member towns use the HCGIT in place of the state plan. Member towns secured \$2.9 million in savings through the HCGIT.

Purchasing Cooperative

The Purchasing Cooperative (The Co-Op)—now in its 34th year serving the communities of western Massachusetts—leverages its relationship with vendors to secure better deals for municipalities. By aggregating the buying power of many small communities, the Co-Op helps smaller towns and cities attain the benefits of economies of scale that would normally not be possible for them. In the last fiscal year, all 15 member towns made use of the Co-Op, saving an estimated \$412,000 collectively. State-wide savings were a total of \$802,786 over the same period.

Hampshire IT

The Hampshire I.T. program is a partnership with the region's largest I.T. company, Paragus IT. By hiring Paragus through HCOG, customers are able to receive a discounted rate on I.T. services. 8 municipalities saved \$34,549 through Hampshire I.T.

RSVP of Hampshire & Franklin Counties

RSVP (the Retired Senior Volunteer Program) of Hampshire & Franklin Counties provides opportunities for people 55 and older to use their expertise for the benefit of their communities. These volunteers focus on helping seniors remain independent and in their own homes, increasing food security in the region, and building nonprofits' capacity to do great work through fundraising and program support.

Tobacco Free Community Partnership

The mission of the Tobacco Free Community Partnership is to encourage and support smokers in Franklin and Hampshire County to quit. It also aims to create awareness of harmful, smokeless tobacco products that are often marketed towards young people.

Regional Accounting

As part of HCOG's mission to serve our smaller communities, we provide a regional accounting service to towns without municipal accountants. In FY15, HCOG supplied accounting services to 4 area non-profits as well as 3 towns. These financial services include town accountant services, bookkeeping, and payables.

Westhampton

Westhampton saved \$100,511 through HCOG services in FY15.

The Town used the following services: Hampshire Power Hampshire Purchasing Coop, RSVP of Hampshire and Franklin Counties, and the Hampshire County Group Insurance.

Unused services included Hampshire Solar, Tobacco Free Community Partnership, Hampshire IT, and Regional Accounting.

Westhampton's Councilor is Arthur Pichette.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Ford, Executive Director
Hampshire Council of Government

SALARIES

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFICIALS	FY2016	Proposed FY17
Selectboard Chair/Others	1525/1325	1550/1350
Board of Assessors Chair/Others	2800/2550	2825/2575
Board of Health Chair/Others	200	125
Moderator	475	500
School Committee Chair/Others	505/475	400/295
Tree Warden	625	650
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Town Clerk	12,608	12,797
Town Accountant	14,708	14,929
Treasurer	14,708	14,929
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	100	100
Election Workers	9.06/hr.	9.20/hr.
Administrative Assistant	30,750	31,211
Tax Collector	14,708	14,929
Assessor Assistant	14,184	14,397
COA Coordinator	13.24/hr.	13.44/hr.
Animal Inspector	800	825
Animal Control Officer	1,625	1,649
Veterans Agent	1,655	1,680
Building Inspector	10,918	11,082
Wiring	30/inspection	30/inspection
Plumbing Inspectors	30/inspection	30/inspection
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade 1A	23.78/hr.	24.38/hr.
Grade 1	22.76/hr.	23.36/hr.
Superintendent	60,953	62,617
Transfer Station Attendant	12.99/hr.	13.19/hr.
LIBRARY Director	46,028	46,718
Staff Librarian	15.47/hr.	15.47/hr.
Custodian	11.04/hr.	11.21/hr.
Program Organizer	500	500
TOWN HALL Custodian	11.04/hr.	11.21/hr.
Snow Removal	16.96/hr.	17.21/hr.
POLICE CHIEF	27,581	27,995
Officers – Regular	16.15/hr.	16.39/hr.
Sergeant	19.38/hr.	19.67/hr.
Court	17.78/hr.	18.05/hr.

FIRE CHIEF	11,038	11,204
EMERGENCY MGT DIR	441	0
CEMETERY CARETAKER	6,039	6,130

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2017

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY2016	FY2017
Counsel Fees	15,000	20,000
Moderator	475	475
Selectboard Salary	4,175	4,250
Selectboard Expense	4,600	4,700
Administrative Assistant	30,750	31,211
Town Accountant Salary	14,708	14,929
Town Accountant Expense	3,865	3,865
Audit	14,000	14,000
Assessor Salary	7,900	7,975
Assessor Expense	16,672	11,600
Assessor Assistant	14,184	14,397
Treasurer Salary	14,708	14,929
Treasurer Expense	5,400	5,400
Tax Title Expense	3,500	3,500
Tax Collector Salary	14,708	14,929
Tax Collector Expense	13,349	13,349
Town Clerk Salary	12,608	12,797
Town Clerk Expense	5,000	5,300
Clerk, Board of Registrars	100	100
Conservation Commission	225	225
Zoning Board Expense	600	600
Planning Board Expense	300	300
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	5,550	4,750
Highway Salaries	209,311	214,684
Highway Materials	88,000	89,000
Road Machinery	41,701	41,701
Road Machinery Fuel	43,050	43,050
Snow Removal	85,000	85,000
Road Machinery Buildings	29,877	29,887
Transfer Station Expenses	55,514	55,550

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

Hampshire Regional HS	1,159,409	1,097,496
HRHS Capital	73,977	69,782
Vocational Tuition	356,460	371,274
Vocational Transportation	55,820	55,820
Elementary School	1,520,567	1,603,294
School Committee Salary	1,455	1,580
Library	89,832	89,544

VETERANS

Veterans Expense	9,060	3,500
Veterans Agent Salary	1,655	1,680
Memorial Day	200	200
Cultural Council	100	75

CEMETERIES

Cemetery Salary	6,039	6,130
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PROT. OF PERS. & PROP.

Police Chief	27,581	27,995
Police Department	49,727	53,935
Fire Chief	11,038	11,204
Emergency Management Director	441	0
Fire Department	42,300	42,200
Firefighter Protective Gear (match)	5,000	0
Tanker Truck (match debt auth.)	315,000	0
Safety Complex	14,925	14,925
Emergency Medical Services	17,000	17,000
Inspector Compensation	3,600	3,600
Building Inspector/Commiss Salary	12,118	12,282
Inspector Expense	2,300	2,575
Tree Warden Expense	2,000	2,000
Tree Warden Salary	625	650
Animal Inspector Salary	800	825
Animal Control Officer Salary	1625	1625
Animal Control Officer Expenses	300	700

HEALTH & SANITATION

Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop.	4,269	5,445.20
Board of Health Salary	375	450
Board of Health Expense	500	500
Foothills Health District	15,994	16,507

DEBT & INTEREST

Long Term Debt(hwygarage&fire truck)	148,000	152,000
Long Term Debt(hwy truck&schl roof)	82,590	83,000
Interest Long Term Debt	11,670	9,312

UNCLASSIFIED

Insurance & Bonds	82,550	82,550
Town Offices	26,450	27,692
Town Hall Paint (Art 13)	0	30,000
Information Technology Support	7,600	7,600
Council on Aging	3,025	3,025
COA Coordinator	2,279	2,313
Historical	1,200	1,200
County Retirement	174,669	165,568
Council of Governments	761	761
Pioneer Valley Planning Council	242	242
Unemployment (Art 13)	19,000	19,000
Group Insurance	345,000	348,500
OPEB Trust Fund	2,000	5,000
Medicare	27,825	28,375
Reserve Fund	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	4,957,211	5,253,384

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 14, 2016 Annual Town Meeting
JUNE 4, 2016 Annual Election

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve in the ensuing year.

Selectboard	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for three years
Planning Board	Two for three years
Finance Committee	Three for three years
Elementary School Committee	Two for three years
Elementary School Committee	One for two years
Moderator	One for one year
Tree Warden	One for one year
Library Trustees	One for three years
Constable (North District)	One for three years

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept by unanimous consent and without debate the following six articles or any combination of them: Article 4, Care of the Highways; Article 14, Unemployment Benefits; Article 15, short-term borrowing authorization; Article 16, Chapter 90 Highway Funds; Article 17, Fire Dept. revolving fund; Article 18, Cemetery revolving fund.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 5: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2017, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2017, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a Financial Audit for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to prepare and paint the exterior of the Town Hall, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide \$19,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectboard, to borrow funds from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2016, and in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4 and to issue notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$2000 for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$6000 for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to file a petition with the General Court for special legislation authorizing the Selectboard to issue to Outlook Farm a license for the retail sale of wine and malt beverages to be consumed on the premises at 136 Main Road, as set forth below, provided however, that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Selectboard approves amendments to the bill prior to the enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Selectboard to approve amendments which shall be within the public purposes of the petition, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.41, §21, to authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Board of Cemetery Commissioners, provided, however, that the Selectboard will not have authority to make such appointments unless and until the Town votes at the 2017 Annual Town Election to approve the same, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Westhampton General Bylaws as follows:

Article 7-Miscellaneous Provisions; Section 9, Dog Regulations

(A full copy of the amendments will be posted on the warrant and on the Town website)

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Town Meeting, May 9.

**PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report of the Selectboard	1
Report of the Town Clerk	3
Report of the Town Treasurer	6
Balance Sheet	8
Report of the Town Accountant	10
Report of the Tax Collector	19
Report of the Board of Assessors	20
Report of the Finance Committee	21
Report of the Highway Superintendent	25
Report of the Fire Department	27
Report of the Police Department	35
Report of the Animal Control Officer/Inspector	37
Report of the Foothills Health District Agent	38
Report of the Building Inspector	39
Report of the Plumbing Inspector	40
Report of the Zoning Board of Appeals	40
Report of the Planning Board	41
Report of the Veterans Agent	42
Report of the Council on Aging	42
Report of the Triad Council	46
Report of the Westhampton Public Library	48
Report of the Cultural Council	50
Report of the Historical Commission	51
Report of the Conservation Commission	52
Report of the Cemetery Caretaker	54
Report of the Superintendent of Schools	55
Report of Special Education	60
Report of the Hampshire Regional High/Middle School	64
Report of the Hampshire Regional Athletic Department	69
Report of the Westhampton Elementary School	72
Report of the Hilltown Resource Management Coop	77
Report of the Hampshire Council of Governments	80
Salaries FY16/proposed FY17	84
Proposed Budget Fiscal 2017	85
Articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant	87

